

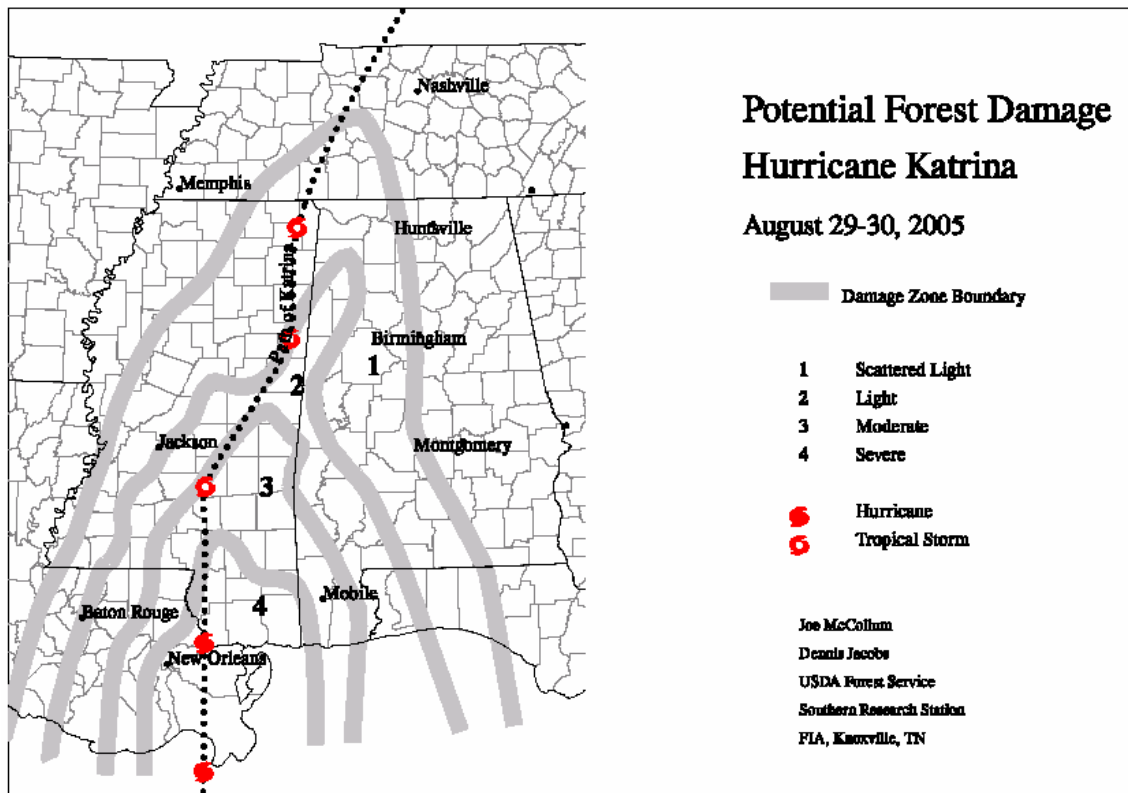
Potential Timber Damage due to Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana- September 22, 2005

Prepared by USDA Forest Service, Forest Inventory & Analysis

Early estimates from forest inventories indicate potential timber losses from Hurricane Katrina amount to roughly 4.2 billion cubic feet of timber (15-19 billion board feet), spread over 5 million acres of light to heavily damaged forest land in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana. One-third of the timber damaged was concentrated in 8 counties of southern Mississippi. Nearly 90 percent of all forests damaged were within 60 miles of the coast, predominantly in Mississippi. Nearly 60 percent of the damage occurred to softwoods—predominantly pines—with the remainder of the damage occurring to hardwoods. According to the USDA Forest Service, down and damaged wood is sufficient to produce 800,000 single family homes and 25 million tons of paper and paperboard.

The impact of Katrina's winds resulted in the destruction of an average of 20 percent of the timber that was standing in the damaged area prior to the storm, with rates in areas near the coast as high as 35-40 percent. This compares to an average loss of about 11 percent for Hurricane Camille which followed an almost identical landfall in 1969 and Hurricane Andrew with a 10 percent loss in southern Louisiana in 1992.

Scientists at the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) unit of the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station have conducted systematic surveys of the region's forests for over 70 years. Data from historic FIA surveys were compared with Katrina's storm track data and FIA models based on historic hurricane damage to estimate the extent and amount of damage.



Potential Down Timber from Hurricane Katrina

State and Damage level	Total timberland in affected area	Damaged timberland area	Percent of timberland damaged	Potential volume of inventory down *		
				Softwood	Hardwood	Total
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>----- Million cubic feet-----</i>		
Mississippi						
Severe [8 counties]	2,200,500	1,973,502	90%	327	239	566
Moderate [13 counties]	3,908,700	1,191,871	30%	249	155	404
Light [11 counties]	2,949,400	206,677	7%	42	32	74
Mississippi Total	9,058,600	3,372,050	37%	619	425	1,044
Louisiana						
Severe [1 parishes]	21,400	21,400	100%	130	65	195
Moderate [6 parishes]	1,155,353	938,863	81%	150	116	266
Light [8 parishes]	1,255,065	135,705	11%	7	12	19
Louisiana Total	2,431,818	1,095,968	45%	287	193	480
Alabama						
Moderate [2 counties]	1,194,349	86,487	7%	61	35	96
Light [8 counties]	4,086,139	472,914	12%	65	56	121
Alabama Total	5,280,488	559,402	11%	126	91	216
Summary						
Severe	2,221,900	1,994,902	90%	457	304	761
Moderate	6,258,402	2,217,221	35%	460	306	766
Light	8,290,604	815,297	10%	114	100	214
Hurricane Katrina Total	16,770,906	5,027,419	30%	1,031	709	1,740

* Based on inventory data for Mississippi from 1994, Louisiana from 2003, and Alabama 2003.

Potential additional timber damaged or placed at risk by Hurricane Katrina

State	Potential volume of		
	Softwood	Hardwood	Total
	<i>----- Million cubic feet-----</i>		
Mississippi	1,176	808	1,984
Louisiana	241	162	403
Alabama	63	45	108
Total, 3 States	1,480	1,016	2,495

Potential total timber losses due to Hurricane Katrina

TOTALS

State	Total timberland in affected area	Damaged timberland area	Percent of timberland damaged	Potential volume of all inventory losses *		
				Softwood	Hardwood	Total
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>----- Million cubic feet-----</i>		
Mississippi	9,058,600	3,372,050	37%	1,794	1,234	3,028
Louisiana	2,431,818	1,095,968	45%	528	354	882
Alabama	5,280,488	559,402	11%	188	136	325
Forest Inventory (MIFI).	16,770,906	5,027,419	30%	2,511	1,724	4,235

Estimates of timber lost to Hurricane Katrina in board feet

State	Low	High	Average
	<i>Million board feet</i>		
Mississippi	10,599	13,628	12,113
Louisiana	3,088	3,971	3,530
Alabama	1,136	1,461	1,298
	14,824	19,059	16,941